

Top Secret



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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

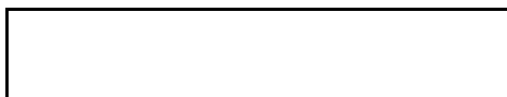
The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

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19 July 1967

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Information as of 1600
19 July 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

Communist units attacked a US patrol north of Saigon near War Zone "D" and a Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group in Binh Long Province on 18 July.

I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:
Two sharp enemy contacts were reported on 18 July along the southern fringes of War Zone "D" and in Binh Long Province (Paras. 1-4). The Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics (Para. 5).

II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

A provisional central committee is being established for the "front" group which will support the Thieu-Ky campaign (Paras. 4-5). Premier Ky has announced he will abolish political press censorship (Para. 6).

III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:
There is nothing of significance to report.

IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

ANNEX

South Vietnam Battle Statistics from 1963

Through 9-15 July 1967

- Weapons and Personnel Losses
- Viet Cong Attacks and Incidents



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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. No significant contact with the enemy was reported on 19 July in the 37 ground operations of battalion-size or larger now under way in South Vietnam.

2. Two sharp encounters, however, took place on 18 July. In one of these actions, seven soldiers from the US 1st Infantry Division were killed and 29 were wounded. The division was engaged in a follow-up sweep of the target area of a B-52 strike along the fringes of War Zone "D," some 20 miles north of Saigon. One 1st Division company, hit by enemy Claymore mines and small-arms fire, was supported by artillery and reinforced by two additional companies. The Communist force broke contact after approximately two hours. There has been no information on enemy casualties, but the US troops reported that the B-52 strikes had severely damaged a large enemy base camp with direct hits on bunkers and other fortifications.

3. The other action was in Binh Long Province, in the same area where elements of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) 7th Division had made a heavy assault on 11 July. There, a Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) company engaged an enemy force estimated at two battalions in a five-hour battle. One member of the CIDG force was killed and 31 CIDG and two US advisers were wounded. There was no report on enemy losses.

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Weekly Review of South Vietnam Battle Statistics

5. The week of 9-15 July compared with the week of 2-8 July

I. Viet Cong Incidents

	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>9-15 July</u>
Attacks	44	55
Battalion or larger.....	1	2
Small Unit.....	43	53
Harassment	362	376
Terrorism	12	46
Sabotage	45	21
Propaganda	14	12
Antiaircraft	<u>201</u>	<u>280</u>
TOTAL INCIDENTS	678	790

II. Casualties

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>9-15 July</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>9-15 July</u>
Killed	2,114	1,877	144	202
Wounded	-----	-----	383	543
Missing/ Captured	-----	-----	29	34
TOTALS	<u>2,114</u>	<u>1,877</u>	<u>556</u>	<u>779</u>

	<u>US</u>		<u>FREE WORLD</u>	
	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>9-15 July</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>9-15 July</u>
Killed	282	175	23	25
Wounded	1,170	1,443	25	46
Missing/ Captured	-----	-----	--	--
TOTALS	<u>1,452</u>	<u>1,618</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>71</u>

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III. Weapons Captured

	<u>VC/NVA</u>		<u>GVN</u>	
	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>9-15 July</u>	<u>2-8 July</u>	<u>9-15 July</u>
Individual	371	Not	135	114
Crew-Served	<u>26</u>	Reported	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTALS	297		136	117

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Thieu-Ky Front Group

4. A provisional central committee is to be established by 22 July for the political "front" group being formed to support the Thieu-Ky campaign,

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[redacted] The front is separate from the campaign organization recently established by active supporters of both Chief of State Thieu and Premier Ky, and its central committee will be composed of approximately 12 persons representing the Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, VNQDD (Nationalist Party), and the Union of Young Democrats (UYD), a group of young professionals. This committee--chosen from among men who will not be upper or lower house candidates--will act as the front's formal leadership and will issue invitations to front members throughout the country to attend a national convention on 3 August. The committee now envisions a convention with some 100 to 300 front members attending.

5. The convention will be asked to approve three upper house slates, each a mixture of Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, VNQDD, and UYD members, and will decide on lower house candidates to support. Front leaders have been considering asking Vietnamese Confederation of Labor President Tran Quoc Buu, as well as retired general Tran Van Don and Saigon politician Dang Van Sung, to join the front, but no decision has yet been made.

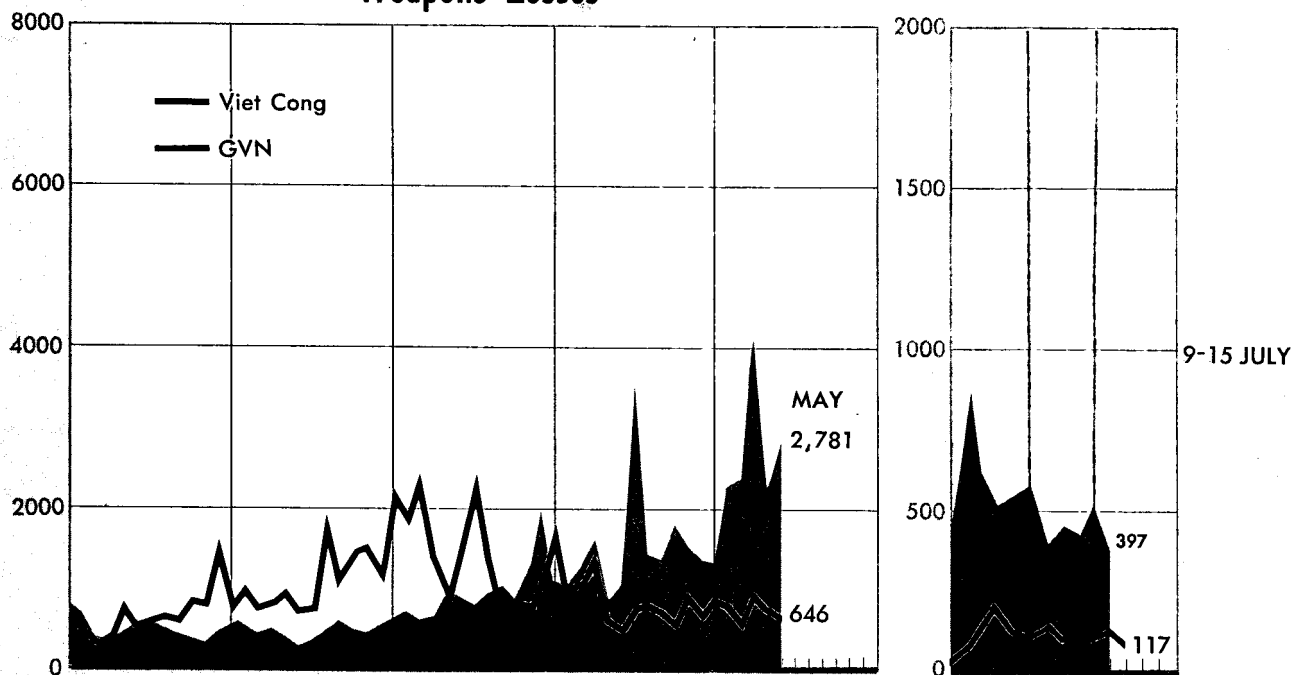
Political Press Censorship Abolished

6. Premier Ky, according to press reports, announced on 19 June that he would sign a decree that same day abolishing censorship of political news. The decree will not, however, affect military censorship imposed for reasons of national security.

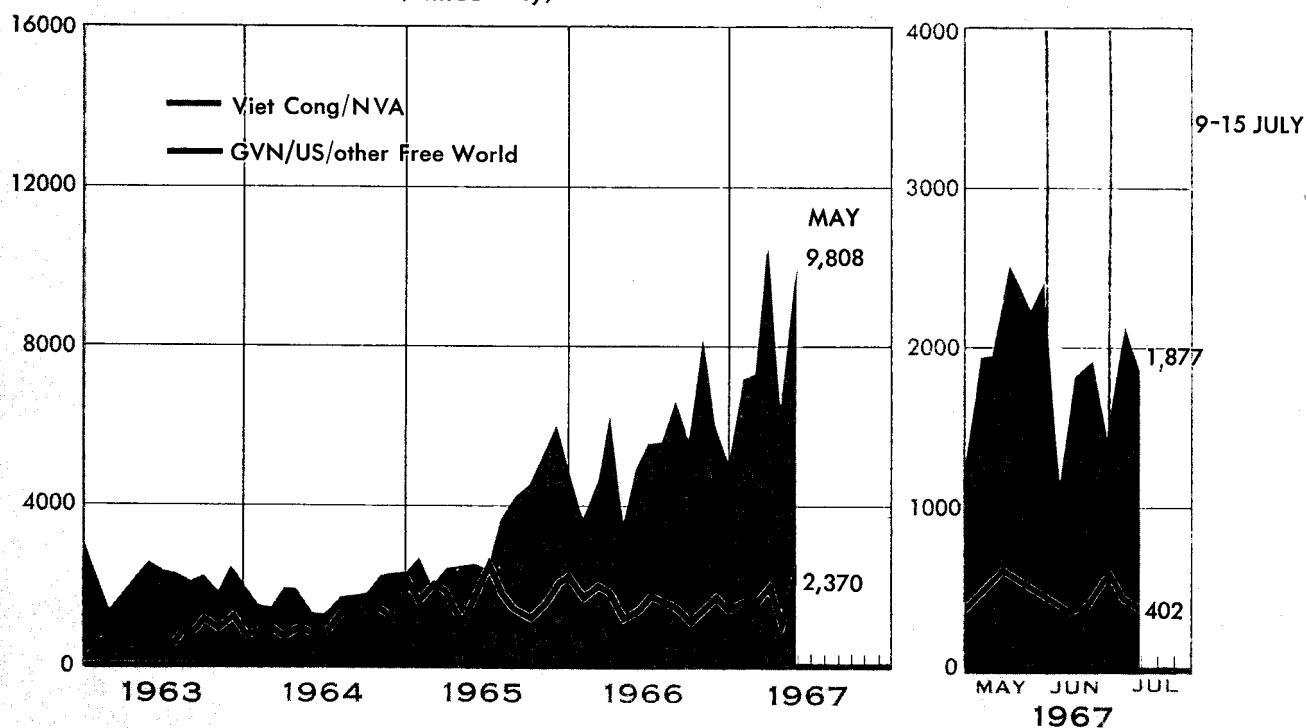
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Weapons Losses



Personnel Losses (Killed only)*



US Casualties to Date: Killed 11,991 Wounded 72,483 Captured 185 Missing 489

*Due to a change in the reporting of personnel losses, beginning 12 February 1967, the weekly and monthly figure will represent only personnel killed.

